(a) the total outstanding short-term credit taken from commercial banks against banker's acceptance facilities in foreign exchange;

(b) whether the Government have used recent loans taken from the international Monetary Fund to liquidate a part of this short-term credit; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total outstanding short-term credit taken from commercial banks against banker's acceptance facilities utilised for commodity imports by the canalising agencies on the basis of government authorisation as at the end of July 1991 was US $ 569.106 million.

(b) The loans taken from the International Monetary Fund are inflows in the Capital account of balance of payments and repayments of outstanding amounts of short-term credit is a continuous process and thus not linked to specific items of inflow on Capital account.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Silver

5315. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of silver seized while being smuggled out of the country during the last one year; and

(b) the number of persons arrested and the action taken by the Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Instances of smuggling of silver out of the country have not been reported during the last one year.

(b) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Export of Leather Goods

5316. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope of exporting leather and leather goods;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of leather goods, and

(c) the prospects of exporting leather goods during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts in India for Indian leather goods to be competitive in world markets in terms of price and quality have helped in increasing exports and these measures are proposed to be continued and intensified, wherever required.

(c) It is expected that the exports of leather goods will continue to increase during the current financial year.

Violation of Pollution Control Rules In Delhi

5317. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pollution Control Rules are being openly and grossly violated in the capital even by almost all DTC buses; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government to stop the increasing pollution and make the rules more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). Transport Department of the Delhi Administration have formulated a detailed scheme for the certification of pollution standards of the vehicles registered in Delhi. In this context, 110 private workshops and petrol pumps have been authorised to provide pollution checking and tuning facility. A total number of 10.35 lakh vehicle owners have availed of the pollution checking facility between March 1990 and May, 1991. Owners of 2900 vehicles have been prosecuted till June, 1991 in accordance with the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and CMV Rules, 1989. In addition, Certificate of Fitness of 3250 transport vehicles have been cancelled and the vehicle owners instructed to bring the vehicle within the prescribed pollution standards before obtaining fresh Certificate of Fitness.

Selling of Stored Items at Post-Budget Rates

5318. PROF. K.V THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that many items like fertilizers, sugar, petrol, motor vehicles which were in stock before the presentation of the General Budget are being sold at the post-budget rates; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). In the General Budget administered prices of fertilizers, levy sugar and petrol were revised upwards with effect from the evening/midnight of 24th July, 1991. The prices of motor cars were raised on account of increase in basic excise duty and special excise duty on motor cars with effect from 25th July, 1991. As regards sale of old stocks of these items at post-budget rates, commodity-wise details are given below:

As per Government instructions, fertilizers stocks lying with the retailers at midnight of 24th July, 1991 were required to be sold at pre-revised rates while those lying with the whole-salers/manufacturers were to be sold at the revised rates; the gains by way of difference between the post-budget and pre-budget rates are to be adjusted against Government's subsidy on fertilisers.

As regards levy sugar, distributed through the public distribution system, its retail price, including old stocks, was raised with effect from 24th July, 1991 evening. The gains on account of sale of old stocks of sugar at post-budget rates are to be credited to the Sugar Price Equalisation Fund.

In the case of petrol, the stocks at the time of price revision are to be sold at the revised rates only and the adventitious gains/losses on account of changes in prices of petroleum products have always accrued to the dealers distributors of these products.

In the case of motor vehicles, increase in the basic excise duty and special excise duty on motor cars was made effective from 25th July, 1991. As the goods once cleared from the factory of production are no more under excise control, it is not possible to distinguish whether the stocks of vehicles in the market after the presentation of the budget have paid the pre-budget or post-budget rates of duty.